

idea which many psychiatrists do not share. This poor heredity is often used by Alvarez to account for a poor prognosis. But clinical experience shows that such pessimism is unwarranted; many patients get well despite a highly neurotic background. The descriptions of neuroses and neurotic syndromes range from fairly accurate generalities to grossly inaccurate specific statements. A reader of even moderate psychiatric sophistication might well be shocked by such a blatant error as "women are perhaps ten times as subject to neuroses as men are."

The five chapters on treatment are largely various admonitions to be a kindly, understanding physician, able to give sound advice and not scold patients. To the reviewer this attitude is one which a good doctor has with all patients, and is merely the first step toward treating a neurotic. The discussion of psycho-

therapy is limited, superficial, and inadequate, and the author seems biased in his derogation of psychoanalysis.

In his preface Alvarez says the book is written by a nonpsychiatrist for nonpsychiatrists. The result is what one would expect—a nonpsychiatric book. Although it beautifully describes how to be a good doctor, the volume adds little to the sound diagnosis and management of neuroses, and, in a rather cavalier manner, ignores most of the recent excellent work of many investigators in the field of psychosomatic medicine and neurotic disorders. It is regrettable that a book with such worth-while aims, by such an able author, cannot be given greater praise.

BRANDT F. STEELE

Department of Psychiatry
University of Pennsylvania Medical School

Scientific Book Register

- Principles of Weed Control.** Gilbert H. Ahlgren, Glenn C. Klingman, and Dale E. Wolf. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1951. 368 pp. \$5.50.
- Introduction to Number Theory.** Trygve Nagell. New York: Wiley; Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell, 1951. 309 pp. \$5.00.
- Insects as Human Food: A Chapter of the Ecology of Man.** F. S. Bodenheimer. The Hague, Netherlands: Dr. W. Junk, 1951. 352 pp. 10 guilders.
- Synthetic Methods of Organic Chemistry**, Vol. 5. With cumulative index of Vols. 1-5. W. Theilheimer. Basel: S. Karger; New York: Interscience, 1951. 612 pp. \$14.00.
- Lumineszenz: Ergebnisse und Anwendungen in Physik, Chemie und Biologie.** Fritz Bandow. Stuttgart: Wissenschaftliche Verlag, 1950. 255 pp.
- Preparation, Properties, and Technology of Fluorine and Organic Fluoro Compounds.** National Nuclear Energy Series VII-1. Charles Slessor and Stuart R. Schram, Eds. New York-London: McGraw-Hill, 1951. 868 pp. \$10.50.
- Decompression Sickness: Caisson Sickness, Diver's and Flier's Bends and Related Syndromes.** Compiled under the auspices of the Subcommittee on Decompression Sickness, Committee on Aviation Medicine, Division of Medical Sciences, National Research Council. John F. Fulton, Ed. Philadelphia-London: Saunders, 1951. 437 pp. \$8.50.
- Algae of the Western Great Lakes Area—Exclusive of Desmids and Diatoms.** G. W. Prescott, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.: Cranbrook Inst. of Science, 1951. 946 pp. \$10.50.
- Organic Syntheses**, Vol. 31. R. S. Schreiber, Ed. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1951. 122 pp. \$2.75.
- X-Ray Analysis of Crystals.** Eng. ed. of *Röntgenanalyse van Krystallen*. J. M. Bijvoet, N. H. Kolmeyer, and Caroline H. MacGillavry; trans. by H. Littman Fürth. New York: Interscience; London: Butterworths, 1951. 304 pp. \$6.50.
- Physical Chemistry of Lubricating Oils.** A. Bondi. New York: Reinhold, 1951. 380 pp. \$10.00.
- Psychoanalysis, Man, and Society.** Paul Schilder. New York: Norton, 1951. 382 pp. \$4.00.
- New and Nonofficial Remedies.** Issued under the direction of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, American Medical Association. Philadelphia-London: Lippincott, 1951. 782 pp.
- College Algebra.** 2nd ed. Raymond W. Brink. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1951. 495 pp. \$3.75.
- Introduction to Modern Chemistry.** P. C. Gaines, Laurence O. Binder, Jr., and Ray Woodruff. St. Louis: Mosby, 1951. 576 pp. \$4.75.
- Fundamentals of Soil Science.** 2nd ed. C. E. Millar and L. M. Turk. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1951. 510 pp. \$5.50.
- Advances in Food Research**, Vol. III. E. M. Mrak and George F. Stewart. New York: Academic Press, 1951. 518 pp. \$9.50.
- Fundamental Principles of Physical Chemistry.** 2nd ed. Carl F. Prutton and Samuel H. Maron. New York: Macmillan, 1951. 803 pp. \$5.75.
- The Surface Chemistry of Solids.** S. J. Gregg. New York: Reinhold; London: Chapman & Hall, 1951. 297 pp. \$8.50.
- The Dusky-footed Wood Rat.** A record of observations made on the Hastings Natural History Reservation. Jean M. Linsdale and Lloyd P. Tevis, Jr. Berkeley: Univ. California Press, 1951. 664 pp. \$7.50.
- Corrosion Guide.** Erich Rabald. Houston-Amsterdam: Elsevier Press, 1951. 629 pp. \$12.50.
- Psychosomatic Gynecology: Including Problems of Obstetrical Care.** William S. Kroger and S. Charles Freed. Philadelphia-London: Saunders, 1951. 503 pp. \$8.00.
- Statistical Methods for Chemists.** W. J. Youden. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1951. 126 pp. \$3.00.
- Radiologic Physics.** Revised 2nd ed. Charles Weyl and S. Reid Warren, Jr. Springfield, Ill.: Thomas, 1951. 491 pp. \$10.50.